

**ACRL Literatures in English Section Midwinter 2011  
Executive Committee Meetings (Combined Minutes)  
San Diego, CA**

Saturday, January 08, 2011, 8:00-10:00am, San Diego Convention Center 23B  
Monday, January 10, 2011, 10:30am-12:00pm, Hilton Bayfront, Aqua Room

---

**Saturday, January 08, 2011, 8:00-10:00am, San Diego Convention Center 23B**

*In attendance:* Liorah Golomb (Chair), Faye Christenberry (Vice Chair/Chair-Elect), Angela Courtney (past Chair), Tim Hackman (Secretary), Melissa Van Vuuren (Member-at-Large), Arianne Hartsell-Gundy (past Member-at-Large), Jaena Alabi (chair, Membership and co-chair, Reference Discussion Group), Steven Harris (chair, Nominations), Frank Gravier (chair, Planning), Christine Ruotolo (chair, Publications), Michaelyn Burnette (co-chair, Collections Discussion Group), Harriett Green (co-chair, New Members Discussion Group), Chad Curtis (co-chair, Reference Discussion Group), David Oberhelman (Virtual Participation Task Force)

*Guests:*

Elizabeth Dupuis (ACRL Communities of Practice and ACRL Board)  
Adam Burling (Program Coordinator, ACRL)  
Steven Bell (candidate for ACRL Vice President/President-Elect)

**Monday, January 10, 2011, 10:30a-12:00pm, Hilton Bayfront, Aqua Room 300**

*In attendance:* Liorah Golomb (chair), Tim Hackman (Secretary), Melissa Van Vuuren (Member-at-Large), John Novak (member, Conference Program Planning 2012), Jaena Alabi (chair, Membership and co-chair, Reference Discussion Group), Frank Gravier (chair, Planning), Chris Ruotolo (chair, Publications), Michaelyn Burnette (co-chair, Collections Discussion Group), Harriett Green (co-chair, New Members Discussion Group), Chad Curtis (co-chair, Reference Discussion Group), Millie Jackson (co-chair, Promotional Video Task Force), David Oberhelman (chair, Virtual Participation Committee),

*Guest:*

Thomas Abbott (candidate for ACRL Vice President/President-Elect)

**Welcome and Introductions (Golomb)**

Chair Golomb called the first meeting to order at 8:04am and welcomed members and guests.

**I. Approval of Agenda (Golomb)**

Agenda was distributed via email. Agenda was approved with no changes.

**II. Approval of Minutes from ALA Annual 2010 (Hackman)**

With two minor corrections, the minutes were approved. Hackman will make the corrections and post the finalized minutes to the Wiki.

### **III. Announcements from ACRL Communities of Practice Assembly, Leader Development & Strategic Planning, and ACRL Board (Guest: Elizabeth Dupuis)**

Dupuis reported on the strategic planning process. The new draft *Plan for Excellence* (revised November 16, 2010) has been significantly tightened (from eight pages to two, covering three objectives instead of twelve,) with a focus on how academic and research libraries can move ahead in the current environment. The plan also focuses on initiatives to make libraries and librarians more visible. The three strategic goals are:

1. Value of Academic Libraries (“Academic libraries demonstrate alignment with and impact on institutional outcomes”);
2. Student Learning (“Librarians transform student learning, pedagogy, and instructional practices through creative and innovative collaborations”);
3. Research and Scholarly Environment (“Librarians accelerate the transition to a more open system of scholarship.”)

As a first step for strategic goal #1, ACRL has completed a report on the Value of Academic Libraries, which will be presented Saturday, January 8, 10:30am-12:00pm.

The draft *Plan for Excellence* is available on ACRL’s website and ALA Connect. ACRL is accepting comments (via SurveyMonkey) through January 31 and is especially interested in suggestions of specific activities related to the strategic goals.

Dupuis also reported that ACRL is discussing a change to the bylaws that would affect dues. Dues were last adjusted in 2004-2005; in the past changes were usually made in big “jumps” every four or five years. ACRL is interested in moving to smaller yearly changes tied to the Higher Education Price Index, with lower rates remaining available for students and retirees. Changes to the bylaws require a ballot vote.

The ACRL Board is also considering the role of Interest Groups. Currently there are seven Interest Groups which are brought into existence to examine topics that do not directly match up with existing Sections. (List is available here: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/acrl/resources/leadership/igs.cfm>) The original plan was to phase out groups after three years, but there may be cases where Groups could be continued for a longer time or, eventually, converted into permanent Sections. The Board has written a report on this topic including: defining the differences between Interest Groups and Sections; when and how each is created; when and how they are continued; and how their performance is evaluated. The goal of the report is to strengthen Interest Groups and Sections, not eliminate them. Golomb will share the document with LES Executive Committee. Golomb suggested that LES Executive Committee may want to think about evaluation of our section as an agenda topic for ALA Annual 2011.

Additional updates from ACRL Council (Golomb): The deadline for volunteering for committees is February 4, 2011.

### **IV. ACRL Announcements (Guest: Adam Burling)**

Burling attended to listen to concerns and/or answer questions about ACRL’s services. Executive Committee members raised two questions:

Technology for Virtual Participation: All conference centers selected by ALA have free wireless access, but they are not usually set up for efficient video-conferencing. Committees can request wired access from ACRL (deadlines are in the fall, but they do have some ability to make changes after Midwinter). Liorah will request access for the All-Committees meeting at ALA Annual 2011. Harris reminded the group that other

technologies (e.g., microphones) may also be necessary for these sessions and can also be requested via ALA.

Privacy: Membership lists distributed by ACRL currently include member ID numbers, which may present a privacy/security problem for members who have not changed their ALA login and password. Burling will suppress member ID numbers in future reports.

#### **V. ACRL Board Update (Dupuis)**

Included in III., above.

#### **VI. Presentations by 2011 candidates for ACRL Vice President/President-Elect (Guests: Steven Bell and Thomas Abbott)**

At Saturday's meeting, Steven Bell (Temple University) spoke briefly about his background and qualifications. He has three agenda items: leveraging the talents of individual members and encouraging inactive members to become more engaged with the association; promoting the value of academic librarians, not just academic libraries; and encouraging innovative solutions to common problems through an "Open Innovation Initiative."

At Monday's meeting, Thomas Abbott (University of Maine) spoke briefly about his background and qualifications. He described his leadership style as collaborative and highlighted his priorities, including incorporating pedagogical thinking into librarianship and identifying leaders in our profession.

#### **VII. General Membership Meeting (Alabi)**

The LES General Membership meeting will feature an update from Golomb on Executive Committee activities. Millie Jackson will put out a call for MLA bibliographers. Green and others will do a presentation about trends in humanities librarianship.

#### **VIII. Midwinter 2011 Social Events Update (Van Vuuren)**

Happy hour will be Sunday, 5:45-7:15pm, at Henry's Pub (618 5<sup>th</sup> Ave). LES will use some of its fund to purchase appetizers; attendees can purchase their own drinks. There is a group dinner afterwards at a local Italian restaurant that required a prior RSVP. Thanks to Rob Melton for planning the happy hour and dinner.

#### **IX. Review Draft ACRL Strategic Plan (all)**

Since the plan was discussed during Dupuis's report (see III., above), Golomb invited members to review the draft plan individually and fill out the online survey.

#### **X. Old Business**

##### **A. Review of 2010/2011 LES Budget / Forecasts for 2011/2012 Budget (all)**

The ALA Fiscal Year runs from September to August. Our FY2010 budget was \$750 (standard for a section our size), of which we spent \$349. Our FY2011 budget is \$1263; the increase reflects ALA's new method of calculating section budgets. So far we expect to spend approximately \$500: \$100 for gift cards for the Job Shadowing program,

\$100 for gift cards for the recruitment video project, \$200 for ALA Midwinter 2011 happy hour appetizers, and less than \$100 for Wiki hosting fees. We still have supplies of section brochures so do not anticipate spending funds on printing them this year; funds for the ACRL-MLA Liaison to attend the MLA Conference in Los Angeles came from a separate source.

Funds will be forfeited if not spent by August 31, 2011, so please send ideas/proposals for spending to LES Executive Committee. We cannot spend funds on members' travel expenses. We can use funds for social events, studies/research (including hiring a student assistant), sponsoring an Emerging Leader from our section, and scholarships.

#### **B. Results of search for ACRL-MLA Liaison (Christenberry/Oberhelman)**

The search committee, comprised of Christenberry and Oberhelman, plus two members from the Western European Studies Section (WESS), received ten or eleven applications from LES and WESS members interested in the ACRL-MLA Liaison position. Sarah Wenzel (WESS) was selected as the first MLA Liaison. Wenzel and Oberhelman, along with Jim Kelly, drafted a proposal for the libraries discussion group at the MLA annual conference in Los Angeles. Wenzel will report on the discussion group to the ACRL Executive Committee.

Oberhelman reported that he attended the discussion at MLA on "Libraries and Research in Literatures and Languages," which had approximately forty-five attendees, roughly half librarians and half English/literature professors. The program featured five "lightning round" presentations on various aspects of digital humanities, digitization projects, and digital archives. (Program description and speaker bios available online: <http://guides.library.umass.edu/MLA2011>) There were lots of questions from attendees related to copyright, and this seems to be an area where librarians can be of real help to faculty. Overall, the conference featured many programs and panels in which librarians could be interested and/or involved. The next MLA Conference will be January 5-9, 2012 in Seattle, WA. (ALA Midwinter will be in Dallas, TX one week later)

### **XI. New Business**

#### **A. Welcome to incoming slate of LES officers (all)**

The committee congratulated Faye Christenberry, our new Vice Chair/Chair-Elect. Others officer positions will be decided by elections in March and announced in April.

#### **B. Affirm vote on establishing a standing Virtual Participation Committee (all)**

Golomb reported that she received twelve "yes" votes via email. There was brief discussion about the role of the Committee. Green moved to affirm the vote; Courtney seconded and the vote was unanimously approved. Golomb thanked David Oberhelman, Chad Curtis, Amanda Rust, and John Venecek for their work on the Task Force and the recommendations document.

### **C. MLA International Bibliography Discussion Group (Christenberry)**

Christenberry raised the issue of moving the MLA International Bibliography Discussion Group under the aegis of LES. We would need to involve WESS in any changes to the Discussion Group.

## **XII. Reports**

### **A. Chair (Golomb)**

At Saturday's meeting Golomb announced that there will be no conference program for ALA Annual 2011 in New Orleans. Instead, LES will be contributing a bibliography to the Anthropology & Sociology Section (ANSS) program on Hurricane Katrina. The Conference Program Planning Committee is already in place for ALA Annual 2012 (Anaheim.) The promotional video program, approved by ACRL while Golomb was Vice Chair, has encountered significant delays but is now progressing under the leadership of new Task Force co-chairs Millie Jackson and Laura Braunstein.

Significant successes include the appointment of the first-ever MLA Liaison, the creation of a Virtual Participation Committee, and the Job Shadowing program.

At Monday's meeting, Golomb observed that a large number of LES members did not attend Midwinter this year, making it difficult to conduct some committee business. Should we move to holding meetings and discussion groups virtually, perhaps more frequently during the year, in lieu of Midwinter activities? (The Education and Behavioral Sciences Section (EBSS) held all of its discussion groups virtually this year, so we might want to contact them for ideas.) After discussion, the Executive Committee recommended that LES replace in-person meetings at Midwinter 2012 with virtual meetings. Golomb will send the question to the LES Executive Committee email list for further discussion. The Virtual Participation Committee and Discussion Group leaders will work together to figure out the details by September 1, 2011, the opening date for Midwinter/Annual bundled registration. Our meetings need to comply with ALA's Open Meetings policy; compliance procedures are available on ALA's website. We also need to publicize our sessions via ACRL to reach non-LES members who like to attend.

### **B. Vice Chair/Chair-Elect (Christenberry)**

Members of the 2012 Conference Program Planning Committee and the Nominations Committee are set. Christenberry is working on filling the other committee appointments. Discussed membership of the Virtual Participation Committee.

### **C. Secretary (Hackman)**

No report

### **D. Member-at-large (Van Vuuren)**

No report. Golomb noted that there is no defined role for the Member-at-Large; some years he/she will take on a project but other years he/she may not.

### **E. Membership (Alabi)**

Alabi reported that LES currently has 559 personal members, which is on-par with membership at Midwinter 2010. She has been sending regular welcome emails to new members, as well as inquiry emails to dropped members. Most of the respondents have dropped LES membership due to job changes (new duties, new subject areas, etc.) The Mentoring program is also up and running, and the “Conference Buddy” program is in its beginning stages.

At Annual 2010, it was decided that Membership would clean up the Directory of LES Librarians, which Publications would then help to format for the Wiki. In the process of updating, the committee raised the question of the purpose of the directory. Should it be a list of LES members, or of literature librarians, whether or not they are LES members? After discussion it was decided that the directory will include literature librarians whether or not they are LES members. Membership will contact people listed in the directory for updated information, and Publications will take down the directory while it is being updated.

### **F. Job Shadowing (Hartsell-Gundy)**

Arianne Hartsell-Gundy created the job shadowing program when she was LES Member-at-Large and has been busy matching shadowers to shadowees even though her term is over. She first sent out a call for LES members interested in being shadowed; when she had a significant corps of volunteers she then sent out emails to the English honors society Sigma Tau Delta, ALA Connect, and to library schools in states where she had secured volunteers. There has been one successful match-up so far, with three more scheduled for next month. Five more connections have been made but shadowing appointments have not yet been confirmed. Hartsell-Gundy may also contact WESS to discuss sharing volunteers between our two sections’ shadowing programs, so that additional librarians and shadowers can be matched up.

Currently there is no mechanism for continuing the program. It was discussed and decided that the Membership Committee would create a position for a job shadowing coordinator, in much the same way that Publications has committee members assigned to the listserv, BiblioNotes, blog, etc. Christenberry can put out a call for a job shadowing program coordinator and make a selection with Alabi. That person will then be appointed to the Membership Committee.

### **G. Virtual Participation Task Force/Committee (Oberhelman)**

The Executive Committee voted to make the Task Force a permanent committee of LES (see XI.B., above). Oberhelman reviewed the Task Force’s recommendations document. ALA requires one face-to-face meeting per year for committees, so we could eliminate in-person meetings at Midwinter but would still need to meet at Annual. (After the Saturday meeting Dupuis told Golomb that in fact ALA no longer required any face-to-face meetings. Golomb noted this at the Monday meeting.) We also need to be mindful of ALA’s Open Meetings Policy, which requires that meetings be advertised and available to all. There is an FAQ regarding policy compliance on ALA’s website.

The Executive Committee discussed the difficulties of arranging internet access and phone lines at conference sites. (Such arrangements need to be requested far in advance and may not be available at all depending on the conference facility.) The

Virtual Participation Committee is already testing out various tools for virtual meetings (e.g., chat, conference call, ALA Connect, Google Docs, etc.) and will hold a meeting in fall 2011 as a “practice run.”

Amanda Rust is drafting best practices for virtual meetings. The Committee plans to use those guidelines to help other committees, and will largely play an advisory role, especially with choosing appropriate technologies for meetings. Burnette suggested that LES funds could be used to purchase access to certain technologies, if appropriate. Gravier would like to see the Committee advocate with ACRL for more virtual participation options. Gravier also questioned the implications for All-Committees meetings organization-wide.

Oberhelman will draft a description and statement of purpose for the Committee. Once members are appointed they will be assigned different tasks, e.g., exploring and keeping up with new meeting technologies, keeping up with best practices for online meetings, creating evaluation checklists for meeting technologies, etc.

#### **H. Planning (Gravier)**

The Strategic Plan has been posted to the LES website. Next up for the Committee is reviewing governance procedures (including adding the new Virtual Participation Committee). The Planning Committee will ask members for comment on the procedures and hopes to have proposed revisions for a vote at ALA Annual 2011.

Also on the committee’s agenda is a review of Research Competency guidelines. A liaison from ACRL’s Information Literacy & Standards group is working with Planning to conduct the review. The guidelines are due for revision by 2012.

#### **I. Publications (Ruotolo)**

Only two Publications members were able to attend the All Committees meeting. Status reports on Publications projects:

- LES-L: Traffic on the listserv is up slightly from last year.
- BiblioNotes: The new editor, Carrie Wajda, produced her first issue of the newsletter in the fall.
- Blog: Aaron McCollough has taken over as moderator for the LES Blog. Thanks to Tim Hackman for serving as the inaugural moderator. McCollough has written his first post; members are encouraged to take a look and leave some comments to get discussion going.
- Wiki: Aline Soules is still handling maintenance of the Wiki. She will disable the directory until Membership can update the listings, and will send notification via LES-L that a new directory is coming soon.
- Website: ALA is moving over to Drupal for its content management system, which will require an overhaul of our site’s design and content. This will take some work, but the new system should be easier to maintain and have better features. Ruotolo’s appointment to Publications and as Website Editor both end at Annual 2011, which may be right in the middle of migration to the new system, so she is willing to continue her service in these roles.
- Bibliography: Three people are working on the bibliography, transferring citations from a static web page into Zotero. The goal is to make the bibliography more collaborative so that all members can contribute. All

listings have to be converted manually, which is a time-consuming task. There was some discussion of hiring a graduate student and/or using LES volunteers to enter the citations into Zotero. Publications will examine the number of citations that still need to be converted and will do some calculations of the time needed to complete the project. Once citations are entered in Zotero, Publications can also create style sheets that will allow users to print out citations by date, subject, author, etc.

**J. 2011 Conference Program Planning (Golomb for Landor)**

As mentioned in the Chair's report above, LES will be contributing a bibliography to the ANSS program at Annual 2011 in New Orleans.

**K. 2012 Conference Program Planning (Novak for Martin)**

The committee is discussing possible topics. The topic of genre fiction, e.g., science fiction or "ethnic literature," discussed but not submitted for Annual 2011, is still a possibility. Other general topics for consideration are geographically-defined literature (e.g., Southeast Asian literature) and LES member interests (e.g., "the death of collection development," new media, etc.) The committee is currently leaning towards "new media," since it is a topic that will stay interesting and relevant well past 2012. Sub-topics could include electronic literature, digital humanities, etc. The panel will include at least one librarian to emphasize the practical aspects of the topic.

**L. 2011 Nominating Committee (Harris)**

There is a full slate of two candidates for each of three positions: Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Member-At-Large, and Secretary.

**M. 2012 Nominating Committee (Oberhelman)**

No report

**N. Reference Discussion Group (Curtis)**

The Reference Discussion Group was held at 10:30am on Sunday, January 9. There were thirty-three attendees, including two library school students. Topics included turning reference areas into "academic commons" and researching literary data (e.g., historical sales figures). The group raised lots of interesting questions for continued discussions on LES-L, the blog, and in Biblionotes.

**O. Collections Discussion Group (Burnette)**

The Collections Discussion Group was held at 8:00am on Sunday, January 9. There were approximately twenty-five attendees. Topics included e-books and weeding (especially weeding of serials and the (in)adequacy of electronic versions as replacements).

The Executive Committee discussed the difficulties of scheduling these groups and, especially, of getting attendees to the 8:00am Sunday session, which conflicts with Alexander Street Press's customer appreciation breakfast. One suggestion is to take one two-hour time slot and divide it into two one-hour sessions. Each Discussion Group

would maintain its own leader and set its own agenda. Golomb will poll the rest of the Executive Committee via email for feedback on this approach.

**P. New Members Discussion Group (Green)**

The New Members Discussion Group was held at 4:00pm on Saturday, January 8. There were nine attendees, including one library school student. Topics included managing collections, embedded instruction, and the effects of e-books on student research.

**Q. BiblioNotes Editor (Ruotolo for Wajda)**

See Publications report, above.

**R. Website Editor (Ruotolo)**

See Publications report, above.

**S. LES-L Moderator (Ruotolo for Rust)**

See Publications report, above.

**T. Promotional Video (Jackson)**

After some delays and two drop-outs, membership of the Promotional Video committee is finally set. Currently there are five people working on videos in which they will interview faculty members about their collaborations with librarians. Video files will be sent to transcribers by the beginning of March, transcripts will be completed by May 1, and final videos will be completed by end of summer 2011 to meet ACRL deadlines. The group will purchase Starbucks cards as thank you gifts for interviewees. Oberhelman reported that he is interviewing a faculty member in his English department with whom he's frequently collaborated on research projects.

**U. Annual 2011 Social Event Update (Oberhelman)**

Oberhelman is looking at social hour venues in New Orleans. He is also looking at tour ideas, including the Williams Research Center, an historic New Orleans collection which includes the papers of Tennessee Williams. We could invite WESS and the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS) to attend. Oberhelman will discuss timing of the tour and social hour with Golomb and Christenberry.

**XIII. Adjourn**

Second meeting adjourned at 11:56am on Monday, January 10, 2011.